

is an alternative that will actually increase our deficit more than if we simply did nothing.

But it is not that the budget resolutions should not be taken seriously. The environment is one key area. We Democrats will be providing an alternative that actually lowers the deficit while protecting the environment, funding Superfund cleanup, which creates jobs, funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund without drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

There was a time when fiscal restraint and protecting the environment were bipartisan objectives. I hope I am in this Chamber long enough where that comes back to be the priority again.

IN HONOR OF PFC BRANDON SMITH

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Specialist Brandon Smith, who grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Brandon was killed in action in Al Qaim, Iraq, late last week. His Humvee ran over a land mine as he rushed to assist his fellow soldiers who were under enemy fire.

When Brandon joined the Marines, he told his friends that he had found his life's calling. However, for Brandon to fulfill his lifelong dream, it was no simple task. Every morning he had to run laps around Asbell Park, lift weights and literally lose 80 pounds to be in shape for Marine boot camp.

Brandon selflessly put himself in harm's way, serving his country so that future generations can live in a world free of terror. His father, Gordon Smith, put it best when he said Brandon "was taking a stand and making a difference."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Brandon Smith made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Brandon's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong and unwavering support of Israel, this Nation's strongest ally and the only democracy in the Middle East. The first duty of any Nation is to protect its citizens. Israel is in a fight for its very survival. It longs for peace. It has no partner for peace.

Out of desperation, Israel has been forced to identify those who are planning and coordinating terrorist attacks against its citizens, against innocent women and children. And because

Arafat will not end the terrorism, will not rein in the terrorists, Israel has been forced to act.

Over the past three decades, Sheik Yassin has led the terrorist group Hamas as it launched one bloody attack after another. Hundreds of Israelis are dead, over three dozen Americans are dead, and over 2,000 innocent people have sustained wounds that they will never recover from. These facts are not in dispute.

It is time for the double standard to end. Israel's action against Yassin is no different from America's hunt to destroy Osama bin Laden. We are halfway around the world searching for the man who masterminded the 9/11 attack on our Nation. The world will rejoice when Osama bin Laden is gone. Israel suffers the same on almost a daily basis.

Let us not confuse the perpetrators of terrorism with the victims. Israel's actions are appropriate, justifiable and their duty, safeguarding innocent lives, has been done.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today's report on the Social Security trust fund says that in 2018, current taxes will no longer pay for benefits. That means digging into our Federal Treasury. This is just another wakeup call. We ought to use it to provide momentum to reform and improve Social Security. The best way to do that is to increase the rate of return by creating personal accounts for young people.

Let us be clear. Social Security will be there for current and near retirees. It is the younger generations who need the most help when it comes to saving for retirement. Personal accounts definitely represent the best option.

An election year is the perfect time to showcase the differences between parties and ideas. Democrats want to demagogue and tax and spend their way to a Social Security solution. Republicans want to increase the rate of return through personal responsibility and conservative values. The choice is clear.

It is my hope we can move forward next year on real reform when politics will not stifle the debate.

TYCO SHAREHOLDER VOTE

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, while the House today takes up a budget resolution to fund important programs for education, national defense, health care, homeland security, environment and veterans, let me point out that there is another vote

taking place today. That is the vote of the shareholders of the Tyco corporation. They are going to continue to shirk their responsibilities, apparently.

In 1997, New Hampshire-based Tyco, International renounced its corporate citizenship and changed its mailing address to Bermuda to avoid paying \$400 million in U.S. taxes. Today, shareholders will be asked to vote on a resolution that will change that. My hunch—it is going to fail.

This is unfortunate for all Americans because they are being asked to make sacrifices during a wartime economy. We have 134,000 troops in Afghanistan and Iraq while Tyco, International and the Bermuda-based companies, all for the price of a \$27,000 post office box they do not want to contribute, and the other side does not want to do anything about it.

I am the sponsor of the Corporate Patriot Enforcement Act which would deny tax benefits to former American companies that reincorporate offshore simply to avoid paying the same taxes the rest of us do. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, we could save \$4 billion just asking these folks to pay their fair share.

RICHARD CLARKE'S ALLEGATIONS ARE FALSE AND MISLEADING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is clear why misleading allegations have been made by Richard Clarke, a former adviser of Presidents Clinton and Bush. His motivations have become evident over the last few days to the American people as his comments have been timed to the release for sales of his book. And we learned he was passed over for promotion and that he is a close friend of Rand Beers, an adviser to the current Democratic nominee for President.

Mr. Clarke's strange accusations about Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President Bush's handling of the war on terrorism are false as the facts refute the rhetoric. President George W. Bush and his team, with our troops, have shown bold leadership to successfully fight the war on terrorism, have encouraged Libya to disarm, inspired Pakistan to deploy 70,000 troops to fight al Qaeda terrorists, and have led to the liberation of millions from terrorist-sponsoring regimes. President Bush has taken the battle to the terrorists so that we can reduce further attacks on American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

MICROSOFT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)